



# Chesapeake Bay Area Rhodesian Ridgeback Club

Dear CBARRC Members,

Happy 2011! We're already off to a cold winter, and I hope everyone is staying warm out there. Let's just hope that last year's winter doesn't repeat itself!

We had a great turn out for our Fall Fun Day this past November. Over 40 people and their dogs come out enjoy the day, and we met many first timers – we hope you all had fun! We had many dogs get their tattoos as well as holiday photos, and of course, most of them had a blast on the coursing field!

We have some exciting events coming up in 2011 as well. This spring we are planning to bring back the popular CBARRC Herding Day in Berryville, VA. Come on out to see why Ridgebacks truly are multi-versatile dogs, and let your RR try herding some sheep as well! In late spring/early summer, we are also putting together a lure coursing practice, and CBARRC will again be sponsoring the Old Dominion Kennel Club dog show. We will have plenty of knowledgeable members on hand to explain conformation showing, and lunch will be provided after the Ridgebacks are done in the ring. Of course, we are also planning our annual Fall Fun Day in Croom, MD. Please check back often on the Events section of our website and standby for more dates and details.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Steve Christiansen and Stephanie Lea Matulich for their help with CBARRC. Steve has been very busy updating the CBARRC website and giving it a new look. Stephanie has also been busy collecting and writing news articles for our quarterly newsletters. You guys are both doing a great job and we all appreciate it very much!

Please let us know if you have any suggestions or questions in regards to events, the club itself, or Ridgebacks in general. We are always interested in hearing what you have to say, and you can feel free to contact any board member or me.

Hope to see everyone soon!

*Steve Hoffman*  
President, CBARRC



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## Upcoming Events

### CBARRC Events

#### Herding Day!

Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm

Where: Keepstone Farm, Berryville, VA

*Your Ridgeback can try for their Herding Instinct Certification!*



### Old Dominion Supported Show and Luncheon!

Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> all day

Where: Longbranch Farm, Millwood Virginia (part of the Hunt Country Cluster All Breed Conformation Show)

*Puppy and Veteran Sweepstakes, Trophies and Luncheon on Site after Ridgebacks show*

### Fall Fun Day

Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am-4pm

Patuxent River Park, Croom, (Upper Marlboro) Maryland

*Lure Coursing, Lunch, Contests, Etc!*

DOG SHOW	TYPE	CITY	SHOW DATE	CLOSING DATE
Agility Club Of Chatham, Virginia	O	Chatham, VA	2/19-20	Wed 02/02
Star City Canine Training Club Of Roanoke	AG	Lexington, VA	2/20	Tue 02/01
Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club	RLY	Salisbury, MD	2/25-26	Wed 02/09
Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club	O	Salisbury, MD	2/26-27	Wed 02/09
Maryland Sporting Dog Association	O/RLY	Bel Alton, MD	3/4-5	Tue 02/15
Charlottesville-albemarle Kennel Club, Inc.	AG	Charlottesville, VA	3/5	Wed 02/16
Maryland Sporting Dog Association	LB/JSHW/O	Bel Alton, MD	3/5-6	Wed 02/16
Blue Ridge Dog Training Club	AG	Winchester, MD	3/11-13	Wed 02/23
Hampton Roads Obedience Training Club	AG	Chesapeake, VA	3/19-20	Mon 02/28
Dog Owner's Training Club Of Maryland	O/RLY	Beltsville, MD	3/20	Wed 03/02
American Kennel Club, inc.	AG	Lexington, VA	4/1	Wed 01/19
Oriole Dog Training Club	TR/TX/VST	Elkton, MD	4/3	Thu 03/24
Oriole Dog Training Club	VST	North East, MD	4/3	Thu 03/24
Merrimac Dog Training Club	AG	Chesapeake, MD	4/8-10	Fri 03/18
Capital Dog Training Club Of Washington, D.C., Inc.	AG	Westminster, MD	4/8-9&10	Fri 03/25
Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club, Inc.	RLY/AB/O/JSHW	Harrisonburg, VA	4/9-10	Wed 03/23
Blue Ridge Dog Training Club	TR/TX	Cross Junction, VA	4/17	Thu 04/07
Central Virginia Agility Club	AG	Glen Allen, VA	4/22-24	Tue 04/05
Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club	AG	Eden, MD	4/22-24	Tue 04/05
Old Dominion Kennel Club Of Northern Virginia, Inc.	AB/O/JSHW/RLY	Timonium, MD	4/23	Wed 04/06
Baltimore County Kennel Club	RLY/AB/O/JSHW	Timonium, MD	4/24	Wed 04/06
Hyattsville Dog Training Club	TR/TX	Upper Marlboro, MD	4/24	Thu 04/14
Catoctin Kennel Club	AB/O/JSHW/RLY	Timonium, MD	4/25	Wed 04/06
Dog Owners Training Club Of Lynchburg, Inc.	AG	Lynchburg, VA	4/29-30	Wed 04/06

### Key Code for Events

**AG** - Agility    **JSHW** - Junior Showmanship

**RLY** - Rally    **AB** - All Breed

**TX** - Tracking Excellent

**O** - Obedience

**TR** - Tracking

**VST** - Variable Surface Tracking



# Braggin' Rights

Aria is now FCH. Rajataru Solo Performance, MC, FCH, CGC, HIC. . Rhodesian Ridgeback  
Aria finished her AKC Field Championship in Lure Coursing at SHOT on September 12,  
2010. Owned by Candace Gartland

## Profiled Member

Elizabeth S. Thomas, CPDT

### 1. *What dogs are currently in your household?*

\*Simone, who will be 13 in February. She is the only one of my Ridgebacks that I have competed with in lure coursing and obedience. She learned the competition obedience exercises in one month after it was decided that we would enter the Triathlon at the 2000 RRCUS National Specialty. The triathlon consists of obedience, conformation and lure coursing. She rose to the occasion and won the First Select Award, one of our proudest moments.

\*Dekembe, my male, is seven although he still acts like he is eight months. He is a very easygoing boy who I take with me to my training classes as well as to client's homes to test other dogs' reactions. While he could be a pain to show, he did finish his AKC championship with three Best of Breeds and a Best of Opposite. His lure coursing talents amount to running about 75 feet and returning to the start. He does, however, "hunt" on the hundreds of acres across the road from me. He's just not interested in game made of plastic!

\*Gisele, now five, was imported from South Africa at nine weeks. Flew all the way from Johannesburg to Amsterdam and on to Dulles, got out of her crate, went outside with me, ran across a parking lot and leapt into a huge mud hole in freezing February weather. She was the winner of the Best Ridged competition at the 2007 RRCUS National Specialty.



Liz and Twyla (RR), the mother of Mira's litter.

\*Mira was the girl I chose to keep from my 2006 litter. From the very moment she was born, I knew she was the one. At just six months old, her first weekend out showing, she won Winners Bitch for a four point major at the Old Dominion Kennel Club show. What a thrill. There are plans to breed her this year once the stud dog has been carefully chosen.

### 2. *When did you get your first Ridgeback? And what made you decide on one?*

Berkeley was my first Ridgeback, born in 1992. It was he who got me into my current profession and for that I am forever thankful. When I was deciding what breed to get, the Ridgeback had the qualities I was looking for - - large, not exuberant, could go with me when I rode my horse, protective.

### 3. *What is your profession and what do you enjoy doing outside of the "world of dogs"?*

After getting Berkeley I became intrigued with dog behavior and training. At the time, I was working for the American Psychiatric Association and was realizing that my career there was not one that was going to bring future happiness. Two years later I took a one year leave of absence from the APA and went to West Virginia to train with a police K-9 officer and Schutzhund competitor. While I enjoyed tremendously the 600-hour course of instruction, the methods were of a traditional sort and very hard on the dogs. Choke chains, pinch collars, shock collars were all standard equipment. Following my time there, I pursued hundreds of hours of continuing education with an emphasis on positive reinforcement and the training of family dogs rather than protection dogs. After my leave of absence I returned to the APA for a year and then resigned to pursue my new career. I am certified by the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers

and committed to teaching owners to train their dogs primarily through the use of positive reinforcement. I am the Training Director at the Old Dominion Animal Health Center in McLean, VA where my group classes are taught. I also provide private training and behavioral consultations at my home and at owners' homes.

In 1999 I founded the Ridgeback Academy which was originally started as a school for Ridgebacks that had been adopted through Ridgeback Rescue. It was very soon expanded to include all Ridgebacks, not just rescues. The Academy just finished another fun session where we had ten Ridgebacks participating on Saturdays for six weeks. As for enjoyment outside the "world of dogs", that's a bit tricky because my world is dogs. Horses were a big part of my world but even then, the dogs would be with me!

#### 4. *Favorite activity with your dog(s)?*

Going across the road from my house where there are hundreds of acres of woods and open land and watching the dogs run to their hearts content. Next would be power lounging on the sofa with all of them in a heap around me.

#### 5. *Any memorable or funny story about you and your dog(s) you would like to share?*

I looked out the front door one morning and saw Dekembe in the corner of the front yard with his foot on a squirrel's tail. First thing that came out of my mouth was: "What are you doing?" He looked at me as if to say "What should I do?", and then lifted his foot and the squirrel ran up the tree which was about two feet away. Didn't harm it, just stopped it and let it go. Catch and release! Not a day passes that something one of my dogs does will bring a smile to my face or a good laugh.

#### 6. *Do you attend CBARRC events and what do you enjoy about CBARRC?*

Yes, at times as a participant and most recently as a Canine Good Citizen evaluator. It is so delightful to get together with people whom I haven't seen in awhile as well as meet new Ridgeback owners in a relaxed, non-competitive atmosphere. And I love seeing the dogs that I only get to see every once in awhile, usually at these events. A huge highlight is seeing 30 to 40 Ridgebacks running around off leash all enjoying themselves without an incident

#### 7. *Is there anything new or different that you would like to see CBARRC offer?*

**\*An agility day. Are there any CBARRC members that compete in agility?**

**\*A "Clicker" day. Introduction to clicker training (I would be willing to teach this)**

**\*A call for ideas on fun activities outside of the Fun Days on the CBARRC list**

### **TO PROTECT AND SERVE** by *Stephanie Matulich*



There is no question, at least in my house, that the Rhodesian Ridgeback is the greatest dog breed on Earth. To be in the presence of a Ridgeback for an hour or two doesn't give anyone enough time to really appreciate the breed. I grew up in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe (formally Rhodesia) and although the life of a Rhodesian Ridgeback has changed, they are still the breed I knew as a child. When my family last visited me and met my newest addition, Nduna Malaika, they questioned my choice in a second dog, let alone another Rhodesian. You only need one Rhodesian. We spent many nights during their visit reminiscing on my first Ridgeback, Remy.

Remy was an extraordinary dog. She stood 34inches (86cms) to her withers, close to 140lbs (68kgs). Her father was a Champion Glenaholm Ridgeback who was described by his breeder's

daughter, Laurie as, *“He had lovely progeny, and guarded her [Laurie’s mother] fiercely.”* Her mother was a huge Rhodesian named Lukela. Remy was a legend amongst family, friends and neighbours. She lived through the country’s civil war, protected neighbours from theft and was always involved in whatever adventure we had going. She set my standard for a Rhodesian Ridgeback, their intelligence, sensitivity and what can be accomplished as a breed. Then again, that was a different time and era and dogs had to earn their keep. Although the two I have now are much smaller, they are still Rhodesians and have the same traits bred in them. To protect and serve, and claim the biggest share of the bed and blankets.

*They have been known on occasion to climb trees when out hunting.  
Remember a Rhodesian can jump over a 6-foot fence in one leap if it so desires.*

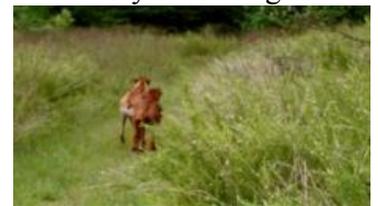
I have met many people who are curious about the breed and will stop me to talk and touch their ridge. On many occasions I have been invited to their homes with my dogs. This has been a great conversation starter for me and even greater part of their socialization. The ‘out of the ordinary’ trait also gives the dog a special appeal when working in therapeutic settings. Many patients find it easier to relax and focus when petting the unique dog in such a unique matter. At the last Canine Cancer Research event held in Annapolis, Maryland, I took my two Ridgebacks, Inkozosana Sibongile and Nduna Malaika, to see how they would handle a large crowd of people and dogs that they had never met before (part of their **socialization** and to re-enforce their people skills). Inkozosana, being the happier dog and easy going in large crowds, is the calmest and not as clingy. She found an old man who had recently lost his beloved dog to cancer, lay her head on his lap, and let him pet her for the entire evening. The man had come to the event with a broken heart, but left with a smile, thanking me for the time spent and the calmness he felt with her at his side (both dogs were mentioned on the Capital website). There have been many stories over the last few years, about Rhodesians coming to the aid of service men and women diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). There are also several volunteer organizations with which one can visit old age homes, nursing homes, schools, and hospitals and spend time with those less fortunate than ourselves. You will be amazed at your Rhodesians’ caring instinct.

There are stories of Rhodesian’s adopting other baby animals to raise them as their own. When keepers in the Belgrade Zoo discovered that a mother panther in their care was in the habit of killing her offspring, there was a bit of a question as to what could be done with the newest cub. A Rhodesian Ridgeback came to the rescue for baby Milica and nursed the infant to health after the mother refused.



Having just whelped her own litter, the Ridgeback openly welcomed the infant as one of her own. There are many more stories about ridgebacks raising babies of other species, like the ridgeback in Germany who adopted a piglet, or the ridgeback who mothered a deer foal. Many would not believe this behavior could come from such an aloof breed. But, the fact is Ridgebacks are highly sensitive and always in tune to the needs of others.

The breed is often referred to as the Silent Dog. They have a resounding bark that can very much frighten an intruder. But they rarely use it unless and until they know for sure an occasion merits a warning. At the same time, the webbed paws that help them maneuver on African sands are also what allow them to creep very silently over other surfaces. When chasing down quarry in the field,



this trait helps the Ridgeback get very close to their prey before springing into a blink-of-an-eye sprint. Many owners report getting an unexpected shock when their Ridgeback suddenly shows up behind them or at their side when they least expect it. The Ridgeback's size belies the fact that an animal so large can move with nary a sound. Inkozosana is almost 3 years old and up until this past October, my mailman had no idea I had two dogs, let alone one. I met him holding the locked glassed enclosed screen door, screaming blue murder that the dogs would get out, when ever did I have dogs. All he had ever seen was my cat in the window. Beneath the windowsill, lay 2 ridgebacks, each stretched out on their own couches in the comfort of the living room watching animal planet.

Since they require a lot of exercise, you will find that many marathon runners train with one. Every day for an hour and a half, I let my two run the woods, chasing critters in hopes of catching some bounty. They are allowed to be dogs for a short time in the day. Nduna runs his daily laps, religiously. You see him running up front, then he is coming from behind, then he darts off to the side and comes out the other side. When he



was younger, he would disappear for 10-15 minutes and then you would see him off in the distance chasing deer; then he would be back and gone again in a second. As he matured, the once 7 week old - 16-pound puppy has become a 100-pound dog and realizing his duty, hasn't gone far from my side.

At a year and a half on a Thursday afternoon walk, both ran off, but came back and seemed agitated, were very clingy, very structured, standing tall with their hair slightly raised. They walked with a focus I recall during the Rhodesian/Zimbabwe civil war— **ON HIGH ALERT** - an eerie feeling, when the hair at the back of your neck stands. About five minutes later a young very slender built man approached us; from the distance I noted his demeanor and dress didn't quite fit the woods. Both Rhodesians came to a standstill, Nduna gave a very low rumble growl that sounded like it came from deep within his chest, still with raised hair and now leaning against me, they very tightly steered me off the path. The person approached and I said quietly "*Umyegela Umuntu Yena lo-Khangela Yena*" (*let that person be-watch him*), in one of my country's native languages. A dog on either side of me, the young man passed us. Nduna, who, once the man passed, very tensely followed him, trying to be inconspicuous.



Inkozosana never taking her eyes off Nduna, watched. After two or three minutes, both dogs proceeded to escort me out of the woods in a hurry. We have met many people and their dogs during our walks, but their behavior this day stands out. Inkozosana and Nduna earned their Rhodesian



Ridgeback badges this day. The next day, our local newspaper had an article about a rapist in the area. Could it have been him? What did my Rhodesians' sense? Why did they behave differently? What was it about this man?

A few weeks later, on another walk, I met a woman (**both dogs acknowledged her!**). She then surprised me and made me proud to have a Rhodesian, let alone two with the comment, "I wait for you to walk your two dogs every day, because I feel safe. I met them a few weeks ago, I was behind you and they never left me"; which explains why Nduna runs his laps. He sensed her need for protection and included her in the pack. As I said Ridgebacks are highly sensitive and always in tune to the needs of others.



It is a strange thing indeed, that a puppy that has absolutely no resemblance to any of the Ridgebacks you have met or heard about, will actually become the very

thing that attracted you to them in the first place – but he or she will. You just have to wait. And more importantly, (and I cannot stress this enough) do not forget that deep down inside that puppy is a sensitivity that is being developed – by YOU. This is the most important aspect to keep in mind during the challenge and art of raising a Rhodesian Ridgeback puppy.

**In my eyes, the RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK is an AMAZING dog**

## SPOILT ROTTEN DOGS

### SALAD BAR BONES

2 1/2 Cups all-purpose flour	1 cup finely diced fresh baby spinach
1/2 cup finely chopped broccoli flowers	1/2 cup grated carrots
1 teaspoon garlic minced	1/4 cup non-fat yogurt
1/4 cup un-sweetened applesauce	



Preheat the oven to 350F. Mix together all the ingredients and then form the dough into a ball. Drop the ball onto a floured breadboard and knead the dough with your hands. If the dough is too sticky, add a little more flour to the breadboard. Roll the dough out to about 1/4 inch thick. Use a 3-inch dog bone-shaped cookie cutter to cut out the dough. Place the shape on greased cookie sheet. Bake 15 - 20 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from the oven, let cool thoroughly, and store in airtight container. (Crunchier Treats) When all the cookies have been baked, turn off the oven. Put all the cookies back on cookie sheet and return to oven, leave them in the cooling oven for several hours or overnight to harden.

### CHICKEN CHIPS

2 cooked (boiled) chicken breasts	1 clove garlic
1/2 cup chicken broth	1-cup whole-wheat flour
1/2 cup cornmeal	

Puree chicken and garlic in a food processor or blender. Add in chicken broth. Transfer mixture to bowl and stir in remaining ingredients until it's not sticky anymore. Cut dough in half and shape each into a 1 1/2-inch diameter roll. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill thoroughly. Slice into thin chips. Bake chips on lightly greased baking sheet at 350F for 25-40 minutes, turning halfway through baking time. Chips will harden as they cool.

### DOGGY MEAT LOAF WITH VEGETABLES

1 1/2 pounds lean ground beef	3 stalks celery, chopped
2 carrots, grated	1 apple, cored and diced
2 eggs	2 slices white bread, torn into pieces
1 cup regular rolled oats	1 cup wheat germ
1 (6 ounce) can tomato paste	4 medium potatoes, cubed
3 carrots, chopped	1 stalk celery, cubed

#### Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Coat a large roasting pan with oil and set aside. In a large bowl, mix together the ground beef, 3 stalks of celery, grated carrots, apple, eggs, bread, oats, wheat germ and tomato paste using your hands. Divide the meat mixture into four equal parts and make loaf shapes. Place the loaves in the roasting pan. Surround them with the potatoes, remaining carrots and remaining celery. Cover the pan with a lid. Bake for 80 minutes in the preheated oven, or until the meat is cooked through. The internal temperature should be 175F (80 C) when taken with a meat thermometer. Allow to cool. Portion the food into containers with one loaf and one quarter of the vegetables in each one. Refrigerate. To serve, give your dog 1/3 of a container with each portion of kibble.

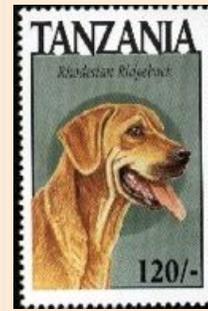
DOG SHIPPING



Ajman is the smallest of the United Arab Emirates



Azerbaijan is a former Soviet republic in the Caucasus



Tanzania in Africa



Benin in Africa



Republic of Buryatia. (A federal subject of Russia)



Transkei is one of the self governing homelands of South Africa



South African Pet Food Company, Epol



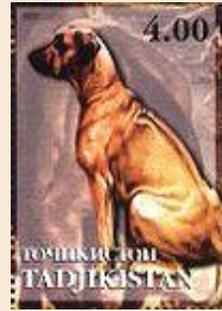
Evenkia a district of Central Russia



Republic of Saharawi



Fujairah is one of the seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates



Tadjikistan



Republic of South Africa



Karelia is a region in Northwestern Russia



Kyrgyzstan



Sakhalin is the largest island in Russia

**GIFT WRAPPING WITH A RIDGEBACK***Permission to use by Liz Megginson – South African Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, SARRC*

- a. Place wrapping paper, ribbon, tape, tags, tissue and scissors in a roomy place conducive to wrapping.
- b. The floor works for me.
- c. Go to get some gifts to wrap.
- d. Upon returning with gifts, remove slightly chewed roll of paper from dogs' mouth, dry off slobber.
- e. Place dog on his bed, and command to stay.
- f. Roll out paper, cut to proper length, trimming off chewed edge.
- g. Reach for tape that is no longer there, and hear crunching noises.
- h. Remove crunched roll of tape from dogs' mouth.
- i. Go find more tape.
- j. Place dog on his bed, and command to stay.
- k. Tape package, add bow and tags, place under tree.
- l. Retrieve scissors from dogs' bed, drying off slobber.
- m. Repeat procedure for gift two, pausing long enough to replace bow from gift one that the dog is eating.
- n. Place dog on his bed, and command to stay.
- o. Return to find while you were replacing bow on gift one, dog chewed the corner off gift two.
- p. Place dog on his bed.
- q. Get a glass of wine and forget wrapping gifts for tonight.

*(Refer to Cari's instruction in our last newsletter for help)***DECORATING WITH A RIDGEBACK**

Decorating when you have pets can provide unique opportunities to express your own personal style and taste. Here are some tips I'd like to share:

-  Bare floors, without carpet or throw rugs, can give a nice open feeling to a room. It can provide a soothing balance when you have many art objects that reflect your love of animals.
-  Paw prints and nose smudges on glass doors and windows break up glare and soften the light in a room.
-  Dog crates, when stacked three high, can add height to a room and pull the eye up. If fastened securely to the wall, the top can provide a safe and dramatic place for exotic plants or statuary that otherwise might be molested by your pets. An up light can make it a real focal point.
-  Old towels and blankets thrown casually on upholstered furniture can add a wonderful homey, country-quilt look to an otherwise bland room.
-  Common smooth upholstery fabrics can look almost velvety when lightly textured with pet hair.
-  Vari-kennels, placed end to end and topped with plate glass can create an unusual coffee table, one your friends will really remember.
-  Doggie beds, randomly placed around a room, can add color and texture, much as throw pillows do.
-  Shredded or chewed books and magazines send a message to guests that they are free to relax and feel at home.
-  Dog crates can make versatile end tables, and can be slip covered to match any room decor.
-  There is absolutely nothing that makes a guest feel as welcome as large ridgebacks hopping in his lap as soon as he sits down.

So throw away those videos by the DIY experts and others, and express your OWN unique tastes. Your home should reflect what YOU like!

**DOG FOOD AND TREAT RECALLS** by Kathy Anderson & Stephanie Matulich

Over the last few years, there has been several recalls for dog food. For example this January, a recall for “chicken” dog treats. With all the recalls and dogs becoming ill and some dying, I am very hesitant about feeding my dogs store bought foods and treats. For meat treats, I make biltong (my ancestors will shoot me if they knew I was feeding this to my dogs).

**BILTONG**

Biltong is South African dried meat. The word comes from Dutch with ‘BIL’ meaning buttock and ‘TONG’ meaning strip. Biltong has been around for centuries. Biltong has been a favorite with South African’s and Zimbabwean’s for close on 400 years now. This mildly spiced and salted, air-dried meat, has sustained these people since the early days of the Voortrekkers.

In the past farmers used a whole beef carcass for Biltong. Since this is for my dogs, I buy the cheapest meats, or whatever wild game I can find, deer, buffalo, and if I am lucky enough some ostrich. The cheaper cuts of meat often contain an excess amount of sinew, collagen and binding tissue which will yield an often tough and ‘stringy’ end product

The meat must firstly be cut into strips. The strips of meat are then dipped into undiluted vinegar, I use apple cider vinegar. The vinegar ‘bath’ accomplishes a few things: It dissolves some of the sinew and binding tissue. It makes the meat a little tenderer. It also mellows the aroma and flavor of the meat, before and during the drying process. It causes the meat to have a dark and shiny appearance once it is dried. It opens up the pores of the raw meat, for the next step, which is to spice the meat. By doing so, the spices are able to penetrate deeper into the meat.

Meat will shrink by a large amount during the drying process. The drier you like your biltong the more it will shrink, due to moisture loss from the strips of meat. You can roughly estimate that your end product will yield approximately 50% of your starting weight.

Most people develop their own recipes for the seasoning they use on their biltong. Since this is for my dogs I use very little salt and pepper, sometimes I add coriander. Once seasoned let it sit for 12- 24 hours, then completely rinse off the spices in another bowl of vinegar mixed with water – 1 part vinegar and 2 parts water.



*Biltong is worth double its weight in gold-Bounty!*

I do not have a drying room or biltong maker, so I place the meat in a food dehydrator and dry. I let mine dry for 3-5 days and keep it refrigerated so it is not stolen by my Rhodesians. This is also a good training treat, and does not have all the preservatives in store bought treats. My dogs have refused treats and foods (they will walk passed pizza, Italian sausage, pepperoni, cheese, turkey breast, etc) offered at homes we visit, and



*Looking for Bounty*

once home will head straight to the refrigerator for their “snacks”. This has shocked many people that know the Rhodesian to be a counter surfer and food lover.

## HEART MURMUR'S IN DOGS by Stephanie Matulich

The **Cardiovascular** system consists of the heart and blood vessels. The cardiovascular system performs the function of pumping and carrying blood to the rest of the body. The blood also takes away all waste products from the body. The blood contains nutrients and oxygen to provide energy to allow the cells of the body to perform work.

A **Heart Murmur** is an abnormal heart sound caused by turbulent blood flow into, through or out of the heart. This condition itself may or may not be a disease, but a default that causes the audible heart sounds to be abnormal. Many dogs that develop murmurs never develop heart health problems that impact their quality of life or how long they live. For others, the condition can be severe and can cause a wide variety of health problems.

**Normal heartbeat:** When you listen to your heart using a stethoscope, you will hear two sounds during each

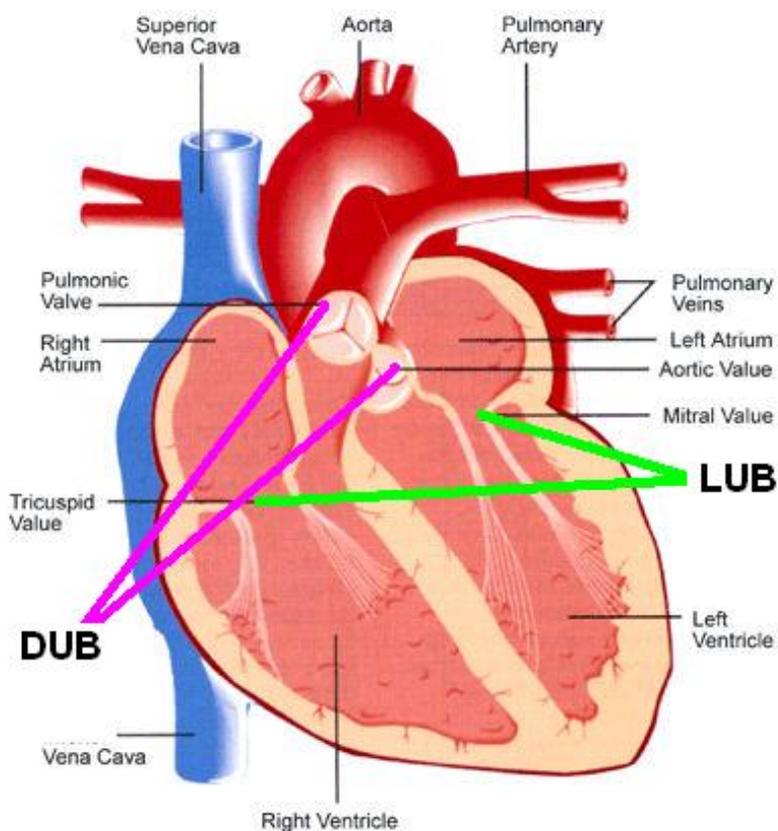


Image received from my friends at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, DC.

murmur and the difference is significant – A good heart beat versus a heart murmur – his heartbeat was “*lub-dub-woosh*.”

**Diagnosing** can be difficult to verify simply by listening to the heartbeat. Heartbeat irregularities in puppies are sometimes detected at birth. Murmurs sometimes show up during annual checkups with older dogs. In other cases, pet owners may notice that something just doesn't seem right about the sound of their dog's heartbeat. If something doesn't feel right ask questions when meeting with your veterinarian. No matter how silly you think your question may seem, ask. **Question anything you are not sure of.**

The process of diagnosing a dog's heart murmur is not that different from confirming the presence or absence of the same problem in a human. The initial examination will involve listening to the heart with a stethoscope (on my last vet visit,

when the veterinarian did his heart examination on one of my dogs, I did ask if I could listen, which he allowed me to and explained the sounds to me and what a murmur would sound like). If a murmur is present, the heartbeat will make a softer, longer sound than the steady, short thump of a normal canine heartbeat. However, in many cases murmurs are very faint, and cannot be confirmed without further testing.

When a murmur is suspected, veterinarians typically follow up a general exam by running an electrocardiogram (ECG) to determine if there is a problem with the dog's heart. If necessary, the ECG may be followed up with an echocardiogram and chest X-rays to determine the extent of the

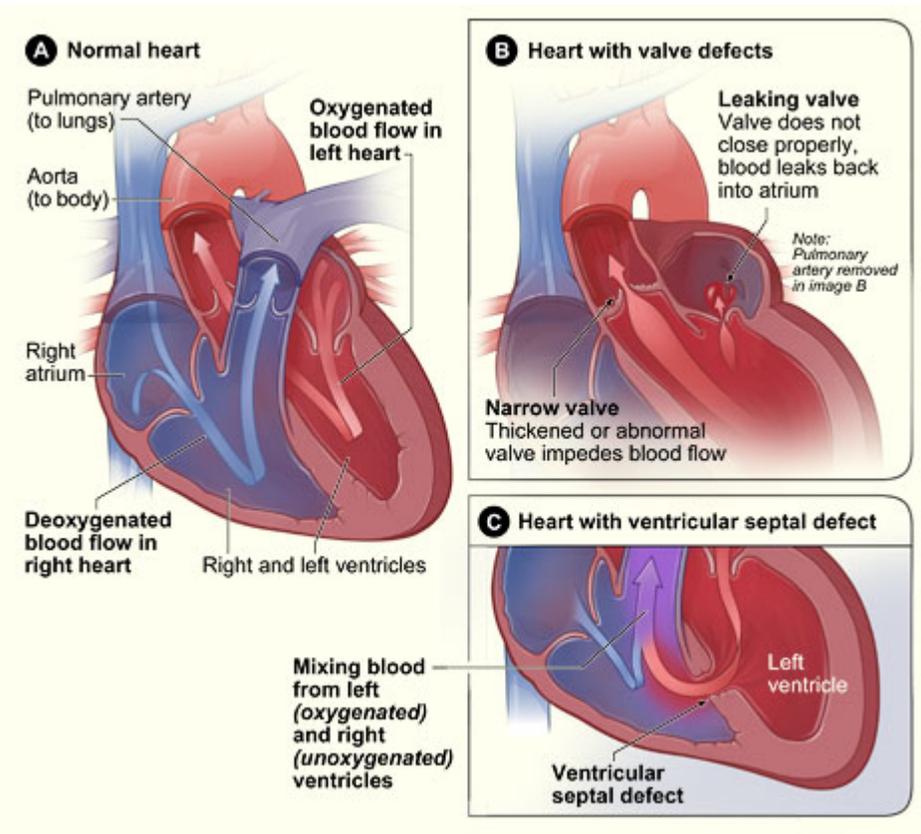


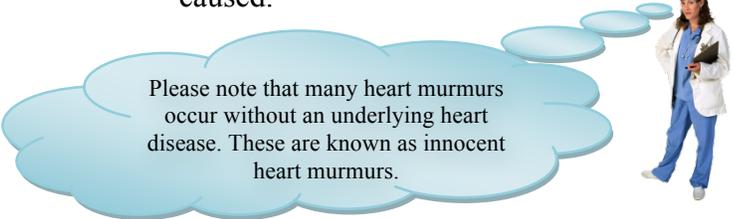
Figure A shows the normal anatomy and blood flow of the interior of the heart. Figure B shows a heart with a murmur caused by leaking and narrowed valves. Figure C shows a murmur caused by a ventricular septal defect.

problem and/or damage that it may have caused.

# 6

Heart Murmur's have 6 grades.

- **Grades one and two:** These are typically minor murmurs that don't require immediate medical concern.
- **Grades three and four:** These murmurs are more serious and are cause for concern. At grade three or four, you may notice your dog gets tired quickly after exercise, and there may have a unrelenting cough that indicates some extra fluid is collecting in the lungs. This will be very noticeable in your ridgeback.
- **Grades five and six:** These are the most serious grades of murmurs. Dogs diagnosed at a five or six will require medication, and may also need surgery to try to repair the fault.



*(It is imperative to appreciate that the presence of a heart murmur in a young animal is not pathognomonic (characteristic of a disease) for a congenital heart defect. Many young animals will have a low-grade systolic murmur that is the result of mild turbulence and is not associated with a congenital heart defect. These murmurs usually disappear by 6 mo of age in dogs and cats. Innocent murmurs are heard in the absence of any other demonstrable evidence of cardiovascular disease. High-grade systolic murmurs (grade IV/VI or greater) and diastolic murmurs are indicative of cardiac disease and should prompt further investigation – Veterinary Merck Manual)*

Permission granted to use image - A Journey to the World of the Heart

**Causes of Heart Murmurs in Dogs:** There are several possible causes of murmurs. If diagnostic testing reveals that your dog has a heart murmur, the next step toward determining the best course of action is to identify both the severity of the problem and its underlying cause.

**Birth Defect:** Some puppies are born with heart murmurs. These types of murmurs are considered congenital birth defects.

**Anemia:** Murmurs in dogs can also be caused by anemia. In such cases, the best course of action is to figure out what is causing the dog to experience anemia. Dog parasites, such as worms or ticks, can cause anemia. In such situations, getting rid of the parasites may cure the anemia and eliminate the heart murmur.

**Heart Valve Disease:** In some cases, murmurs in dogs are caused by mitral valve disease. With age, or as a result of high blood pressure or other cardiac disease conditions, the mitral valves weaken and blood leaks from them into the heart's atrium instead of being pumped out. This leakage results in the audible murmur sound. This problem is more common in older dogs than younger ones, and represents the most serious form of heart murmur.

**Treating Your Dog's Heart Murmur:** When puppies are born with murmurs, treatment is not recommended right away unless there are signs of significant health problems associated with the murmur. As with human children, congenital heart murmurs often disappear with age. In most cases, it will take a few years to determine if a canine heart murmur is a serious problem or one that is self-correcting. In many cases, no treatment is necessary.

**A Word of Caution:** Dogs that are diagnosed with any type of hereditary heart problem should not be bred in order to avoid passing on congenital heart health problems to future generations. *(Congenital heart defects are significant not only for the effects they produce but also for their potential to be transmitted to offspring through breeding and thus affect an entire breeding population – Veterinary Merck Manual)*



*Thanks to my friend, Dr. Ronald Przygodzki for the helpful advice on how the heart works*

## WORLD OF PETS EXPO & EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Socialization and introduction of the Rhodesian Ridgeback is highly encouraged. Several parts of the world, the breed is on the dangerous dogs list. Sometimes like people they just get up on the wrong side of the bed. Many times they are not socialized properly or not enough. This weekend was the World of Pets Expo & Educational Experience held in Timonium, Maryland. Vendors for pet foods, toys, clothes, rescues, search and rescue, dog breeds, other animals - domestic and wild were in a large hall, (away from the cold, snow and ice) talking to the public introducing their wares and choice of pet. I attended with my two Rhodesians and a friend from Pennsylvania with her Ridgeback. All three dogs were hugged, leaned on, touched, rubbed, kissed, had their ridges touched, stood in crowds of many different dogs, pictures taken and getting out there with the breed is important because the Rhodesian Ridgeback, the lion Hound, the lion hunter sure has put some fancy pictures in the minds of people. Do they eat lions, they nasty dogs, if you touch the ridge it will die, it is surgery to help it not kill lions, and they shouldn't be in public - these comments and more. Some curious about the ridge and their coats, shedding, how are they with kids - will they eat the kid up, their size, and people at the event other than seeing the breed on TV or in books, were surprised at the calmness, their relaxed mood with all other dogs and how well they did with kids. It is not a breed for everyone, but what is in people's minds is scary and if the ridgeback were put on the Dangerous dog list in this area, it would be a real shame. They are, with the right socialization a fabulous family dog. Socialization, socialization, socialization.....The key to a great dog!

## UPCOMING MEDICAL ARTICLES

**Heartworm** is a parasitic roundworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) that is spread from host to host through the bites of mosquitoes. The heartworm is a type of filaria, a small thread-like worm. (*Wikipedia*) Heartworm disease has been reported in most countries with temperate, semitropical, or tropical climates, including the USA, Canada, and southern Europe. In companion animals, infection risk is greatest in dogs housed outdoors. Although any dog, indoor or outdoor, is capable of being infected, most infections are diagnosed in medium- to large-sized, 3- to 8-yr-old dogs. (*The Merck Veterinary Manual*)

**Laryngeal Paralysis** in animals is a condition in which the nerves and muscles that move one or both arytenoid cartilages of the larynx cease to function, and instead of opening during vigorous inspiration and closing during swallowing, the arytenoids hang loosely in a somewhat neutral position. This leads to inadequate ventilation during exercise and during thermoregulatory panting as well as incomplete protection of the airway during swallowing. Affected animals thus have reduced tolerance for exercise and heat and an increased risk of aspiration pneumonia. Laryngeal paralysis is fairly common in large breed dogs. (*Wikipedia*) This disease of the upper airway is common in dogs. Signs include a dry cough, voice changes, noisy breathing that progresses to marked difficulty in breathing with stress and exertion, stridor, and collapse. Regurgitation and vomiting may occur. Progression of clinical signs is slow, usually taking months to years before respiratory distress is evident. It is a common acquired problem in middle-aged to older, large and giant breeds of dogs. (*The Merck Veterinary Manual*)

**Hemangiosarcoma** is a rare, rapidly growing, highly invasive variety of cancer. It is a blood-fed sarcoma; that is, blood vessels grow directly into the tumor and it is typically filled with blood. A frequent cause of death is the rupturing of this tumor, causing the victim to rapidly bleed to death. (*Wikipedia*) This is a malignant tumor of blood vessel cells. With the exception of the skin form (which can often be eliminated by surgery), a diagnosis of hemangiosarcoma is bad news. This tumor is associated with serious internal bleeding and rapid internal spread. Fortunately, it is not a completely without therapy options and, as long as expectations are realistic, temporary remissions are possible. (*Wendy Brooks, DVM, and the Veterinary Information Network*)

**Brucellosis** is a sexually transmitted bacterial disease that can cause uveitis, abortion, and orchitis in dogs. (*Wikipedia*) Brucellosis is a cause of abortion in kenneled dogs. Dogs are the definitive host of this organism, and natural infections in other animals are rare. Infection has caused a reduction of 75% in the number of pups weaned in some breeding kennels. The disease disseminates rapidly among closely confined dogs, especially at time of breeding or when abortions occur. Transmission occurs via ingestion of contaminated materials or venereal routes. Both sexes appear to be equally susceptible. (*The Merck Veterinary Manual*)



## IN MEMORY

**Goodbye Aidan.**

**You will be missed and always be loved.**

**CH Mt. Chance's Little Fire, SC 5/14/99 - 1/13/11**

*Owned and loved dearly by Steve and Susan Hoffman*

Please feel free to contact any of the following people for:



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Have a warm, fun and love filled winter. Warm weather is right around the corner.  
Love your hounds and they will more than double their love back to you.